

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NIC-01 AID-05 PC-01 SCCT-01 /063 W

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R 312052Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2707

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 0524

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, DR

SUBJECT: BANK ROBBERIES

REF : SD A-009

1. ON JAN 30, EIGHT OR NINE ARMED MEN ASSUALTED SANTO DOMINGO BRANCH OF BANCO POPULAR, KILLED A MILITARY POLICE SERGEANT ASSIGNED TO GUARD BANK AND MADE OFF WITH RD\$60,695. POLICE HAVE MADE NO ARRESTS IN CONNECTION WITH CRIME, BUT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION THAT IT LINKED TO TWO PREVIOUS ARMED ROBBERIES FOR WHICH 47 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.

2. THE TWO EARLIER CRIMES - RD\$42,000 STOLEN FROM OFFICE OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE IN LA ROMANA ON OCT. 21 AND RD\$185,000 FROM A BRANCH OF THE BANCO DE RESERVAS IN SANTO DOMINGO ON DEC 6 - HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO LOS TRINITARIOS (A RECENTLY ESTABLISHED LEFTIST-TERRORIST ORGANIZATION). THEY APPARENTLY RECEIVED COOPERATION FROM OTHER EXTREME LEFTIST GROUPS, INCLUDING THE GRUPO PLINIO, WHICH WERE WILLING TO ASSIST IN ANTI-GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKINGS, ESPECIALLY PROFITABLE ONES LIKE BANK ROBBERIES. (MEMBERS OF GRUPO PLINIO KIDNAPPED PAO BARBARA HUTCHINSON.) POLICE HAVE RECOVERED ONLY SOME \$70,000

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FROM THE TWO PREVIOUS ROBBERIES, PRESUMBABLY LEAVING

\$157,000 IN HANDS OF ROBBERS.

MOST EXTREME LEFTISTS

ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE TWO EARLIER ROBBERIES ARE NOW UNDER ARREST, BUT GUILLERMO RUBIROSA FERMIN, TRINITARIO LEADER AND APPARENT MASTERMIND OF BOTH, REMAINS AT LARGE. INVOLVEMENT IN ROBBERIES APPARENTLY NOT LIMITED TO EXTREME LEFT, HOWEVER. POLICE ALSO HAVE ARRESTED SEVERAL COMMON CRIMINALS, TWO MEMBERS OF RIGHT-WING PARTIDO QUISQUEYANO DEMOCRATA (REF A), AND PARTIDO REFORMISTA LEADER AND DIRECTOR OF IDECOOP, LIC. LUIS H. SUAREZ, AND CHARGED THEM WITH INVOLVEMENT IN ASSUALTS.

3. COMMENT: MUCH REMAINS TO BE EXPLAINED ABOUT ROBBERIES AND THEIR PERPETRATORS, I.E., WHAT FUNDS WERE TO BE USED FOR, WHY SO MANY PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED, WHY SUCH DIVERSE GROUPS WERE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE. UNTIL THESE QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED, EXPLANATIONS OF THE ROBBERIES WILL BE BASED PRIMARILY ON SPECULATION. INDICATIONS ARE, HOWEVER, THAT AT LEAST SOME OF EXTREME LEFT STILL HAVE DESIRE AND CAPACITY FOR POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMES, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH COULD BE USED TO FINANCE FURTHER TERRORIST ACTS.
HURWITCH

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